

My name is Janet Metzger. I am an actor, singer and voice talent in the Atlanta area. I was the promos announcer for CNN and CNN Headline News for five years, recording at the studios of CNN Atlanta. I have worked as a voice over talent in the Atlanta area since 1980, recording radio and TV spots. Local voice-over work has radically declined in the last several years.

I am also a jazz and cabaret artist and this summer released my debut CD. I am not signed to a major label. I have a local following, and I have toured the Southeast for 6 years (Charleston, St. Simons, New Orleans, Asheville, Raleigh, Orlando, Durham). I have played in major Atlanta clubs such as Samba and Churchill Grounds, and at Libby's Cabaret, a supper club. Also, I play at The Ritz Carlton.

I am pleased to have airplay on two local listener-supported stations - WCLK and WRFG - and one college station, WBCX in Gainesville GA. The only radio stations that play local music in my genre are the listener supported and college stations. Also, I do not hear the music of my friends (rock, Americana) on any stations except alternative stations.

As long as conglomerates control the radio stations, they are not in touch with local communities and their varied needs. I urge the FCC to define local programming and require stations of certain size to program local music.

Atlanta is the home of many recording artists as well as producers, so for our area, locally originated as well as locally produced should be part of the definition of local programming. The broadcast artists and station managers should have the right to make programming decisions, as they are the ones who know the community.

In addition to local news, public service announcements and public affairs programming should be included. In addition, if the community wants it, local public school sporting and entertainment events should also be in the definition. Local music should be programmed as well, and the format decided upon by the local station.

When stations participate in community events, it is not the same thing as airing community programming, and while it may be a benefit to the community, it should not count as part of local programming.

Something that really gripes me is when I hear announcers from another region announcing as if they are in a station in Atlanta. First of all, it is obvious they are not local, because they mispronounce local names. But besides that, they are not live. It is a deceptive practice, and it robs local talent of work. To say that it meets the demand of the market place is a crock. It makes great profit for the parent company because of the drastically reduced fees paid to the talent who often are not industry professionals and therefore impacts the quality of the program. In addition, by taking work from local artists, it negatively impacts the cultural life of the individual communities, because voice actors rely on the fees paid to supplement theater work. If that is not available to them, live theater suffers and so does the cultural life. Major companies relocate national offices to Atlanta based on its cultural life. So you could say that the gross profit-seeking efforts of

broadcasting companies hurts other major corporations.

Thank you for including my comments.